Am .3229

Pennsylvania Prison Society
Adams and Wistar letterbook

Minutes, 1785-1793

On Tuesday the 8th day of May 1787 a Number of Gentlemen Assembled, & agreed to associate themselves in a Society, to be Entitleled "The Philadelphia society for alleviating The miseries of Public Prisons".

## Present

Benjamin Rush
John Swanwick
John Morrison
Thomas Harrison
Tench Coxe
Zachariah Poultson
Thomas Lloyd
Joseph Moore
William Rogers
John Haign
James Whitiall
Richard Wells
Thomas Wistar
Jacob Shoemaker
Isaac Parrish.

William Lane
Thomas Rogers
Samuel P. Griffitts
Francis Baily
Josep James
Charles Marshall
John Olden
Caleb Lownes
Thomas Parker
John Morris

With the above original Members are to be Reckoned:
Dr. William White
Dr. Henry Helmuth
Dr John Jones

Dr Wm. Shippen
Dr Gerardus Clarkson
Jonathan Penrose
Lawrance Sicke
John Baker
James Reynolds
Dr. George Duffield,
Benjamin Wynkoop
George Krebs.

When the following paper was read, & resolved upon to be the future Constitution of this Society

# Constitution of the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons

I was in prison & ye came unto me
" and the king shall answer, and say unto them, verily
" I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one
" of the least of these my bretheren, ye have done it unto me

Mathew 25. 36. 40

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When we consider the obligations of benevolence, which are founded on the precepts & Example of the author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or Crimes of our fellow Creatures & when we reflect upon the miseries which Penary, hunger, hunger, Cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments & Guilt (the usual attendants of Prisons) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our Compassion to that part of Mankind who are the subjects of these Miseries: By the aids of humanity, their under and illegal sufferings may be prevented the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all Circumstances, be preserved unbroken. If, such degrees and modes of Punishment may be discovered & suggested, as may instead of containing habits of vice become the means of restoring our fellow Creatures to virtue & happiness. From a convections of the truth & obligations of these principles, the Suberibers have associated themselves, under the title of "The Philadelphia society for alleviating the miseries of public Prisons" for effecting their purposes, the have adopted the following constitution: —

1st. The Officers of the society shall consist of a president two vice Presidents, two Secratories, a treasurer, four physicians, an electing Committee of twelve and an acting Committee of six members, all of whom except the last mentioned Committee, shall be chosen annually by ballot on the second 2nd day (called monday) in the month Called January.

2nd. The presidents and in his absence one of the vice presidents Shall preside in all Meetings & suberibe all publickets of the Society. The president, or in his absence either of the vice presidents, Shall moreover, have the power of Calling a special meeting of the Society whenever he shall judge proper, a special meeting shall likewise be Called at any time when six members of the Society shall concur in requesting it.

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3. The secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society, & shall correspond with such persons & societies, as may be judged necessary to promote the views & objects of the Institution.

4 The treasurer shall keep all the monies & securities belonging to the Society, & shall pay all orders signed by the President, or one of the Vice-presidents — which orders shall be his vouchers for his expenditure. he shall before he enters upon his office, give a bond of note less then two hundred pounds, for the faithfull discharge of the duties of it.

5 The Business of the physicians shall be to visit the Prisons when called upon by, or to give advice to the acting committee respecting such matters as are connected with the Preservation of the health of Persons confined therein, or subject to the government of the officers of the Prisons —

6 The electing Committee shall have the sole power of admitting new Members two thirds of them shall be a quorum for this purpose, & the Concurrence of a majority of them, by ballot when met shall be necessary for the admission of a member. No member shall be admitted, who has not been proposed at a general meeting of the society, nor shall an election for a member take Place in less than one month after the time of his being proposed.

7. The acting committee shall visit the public prisons or such other places of Confinement or punishment as are ordered by law, at least once every week, They shall enquire into the Circumstances of the Persons Confined; they shall report such abuses as they shall Discover to the officers of Goverment who are authorised to redress them and shall examine the influence of Confinement or Punishment upon the morals of the persons who are the subjects of them. They shall have a right, with the concurrence of the president, or one of the vice-Presidents to draw upon the Treasurer for such sums of Money as shall be necessary to Carry on the Business of their appointment. Four of them shall be a quorum. After the first election, two of their Number shall be relieved from duty at each quarterly Meeting & two members shall be appointed to Succeed them. —

8. Every Member upon his admission, shall subscribe the Constitution of the society, & Contribute ten Shillings annualy, in quarterly payments, towards defraying its contingent expenses, If he neglect to pay the same for more than two years, he shall, upon due Notice being given him of the Dilinquency, Cease to be a member.

9th. The Society shall meet on the second second day called Monday in the month called January april. July. & October. at such place as shall be agreed to by a majority of the society

10. No law or regulation shall Contradict any Part of the Constitution of the Society, nor shall any law or alteration of the Constitution be made, without be proposed at a previous meeting all questions Shall be Decided where there is a Division by a majority of votes In those where the society is equally divided the presiding officer Shall have a Casting Vote

llowing Gentleman were then elected offices of the society

President

William White

Vice presidents

Henry Helmuth, Richard wells

Secretaries

John Swanwick, John. Morris

Treasurer

Thomas Rogers

Physicians

John Jones. Gerardus Clarkson

William Shippen Benjamin Rush

Electing Committee

Isaac Parrish John Bates

Charles marshall Thomas Harrison

Jonathan Penrose, James Reynolds

John Oldden. Joseph Moore

James Whitehall, Jacob Shoemaker

Lawrance Sickle William Lane.

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# Acting Committee

Tench Coxe — John Keighn
George Duffield — Benjamin Wynkoop
William Rogers — George Krebs

The Board then adjourned Sine die

A Special meeting of the Philadelphia Society for alleviatting the miseries of Public prisons, held may 31st. 1787

## Present

Richard Wells — Joseph Moore — Isaac Parrish
Charles Marshell — Benjamin Rush — Zachariah Poulston
William Rogers — John Morris — John Swanwick
Jacob Shoemaker — Samuel P Griffitts
William Zane — Joseph James

On motion a Committee was appointed to wait on the electing & acting Committees, to know wether the accept of their appointments, William Rogers & John Swanwick were nominated for this purposes

A member informed the society that altho' an order had been issued three days since from the supreme executive Council, that Barrach Martin (a Negroe under sentence of death, but who had been Pardoned (should be released from his Irons yet the had not been removed, he is therefore recommended to the care of the acting Committee

Adjourned to June 11th. next at 7 o'clock

At a Meeting of the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisons, held June 11th. 1787

## Present

William White — Benjamin Rush — Tench Coxe
Richard Wells — Samuel P Griffitts — Tomas Harrison
Jacob Shoemaker — Thomas Rogers — Francis Baily

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Thomas Wistar James Whiteal Joseph Moore
William Rogers Isaac Parrish Wm. Lane
John Olden John Morrison Zacharia Poulson
John Morris

One of the Committee appointed to wait on the officers of the society, & inform them of their appointments reported, that all but two (who they had not seen) had accepted of them

The acting Committee Informed the Society that Barrach Martins Iron had been removed, & that they had obtained a Copy of his Pardon from Council, which was redy for his liberation,

The society were Informed by the president, that Benjamin Eyre had presented from the Grand jury of this County, the sum of fifty shillings for the use of this institution

Adjourned to July the 9th the quarterly Meeting

At a quarterly meeting of the Philadelphia society for alleviating the miseries of Public prisons held July 9th 1787

Present

William White Richard Wells Henry Helmuth
Benjamin Rush John Baker Thomas Rogers
Charles Marshall James Whiteal Isaac Parrish
Thomas Harrison John Morrison Samuel P Griffitts
John Morris James Reynolds

Thomas Harrison informed the society, that John Dickinson Esq. late president of this state, proposes transferring ceartain ground rents to the society, & desires that seven trusties may be named & a Deed drawn vesting the sard ground rents in them, for the use of the institution.

Resolved that the thanks of the society be given to John

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Dickinson Esq^r for his proposed donation; & that Samuel Wells, Tench Coxe & Thomas Harrison be a Committee to Inform of their acceptance of it and prepare the necessary papers for the Conveyance of the ground rents, to be laid before the society at their next Meeting.

on motion resolved that Thomas Wistar & Caleb Lownes Call upon the members of this society to sign the articles and pay their Subscriptions.

Sundry Persons having been Proposed as new members at two special meetings, & it being Considered that an Election, on such proposal is not agreeable to the rules of this institution, Richard Wells now proposes the same members, declaring that he does so, on trust in the recommendations of the several persons who have Previously proposed the candidates respectively, and in order to prevent the postponing of an election; the list of the names of the persons proposed & of those proposing respectively is to be kept by the Secretary, & a copy delivered to the Electing Committee.

Agreeably to the 7^th article of the Constitution the society proceeded to appoint two members of the acting Committee to succeed two of the former members, it was Determined by Lot, that Tench Coxe, & George Krebs are those who cease to be members of the acting Committee & that John Morrison & Francis Baily were Elected to succeed them.—

Other persons were propos'd as members of this society & it is directed that they be added to the former list

adjourned to August 13^th to meet at the germen school house

At an adjourned meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Publick Prisons held at the German School house August 13^th 1787

Present

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William White President
Henry Helmuth Vice President
Richard wells Vice President
J Swanwick Secretary
Thomas Rogers Treasurer
Dr Benjamin Rush Physician
Charles Marshall of the electing Committee
James Whitall ..... ditto
John Oladen ..... ditto
Thomas Harrison ..... ditto
James Reynolds .... ditto
Isaac Parrish ..... ditto
Joseph Moore ..... ditto
Jacob Shoemake ... ditto
William Lane .... ditto
of the acting Committee
George Duffield .. John Keighn
William Rogers Ben. Wynkoop
John Morrisson

And a large Number of other members of the society not particularly Enumerated

It was Resolved that in future the names only of the officers of the Society present at the meetings thereof be Inserted on the Minute and the Number of the other Members only Generally as in the preceding Instance-

The Committee on Mr. Dickinsons Donation made Report That the had waited on that Gentleman with the thanks of the Society for his liberal and human Donation & that they had laid before him drafts of a Conveyance in two forms by one of which he had ~~expressed~~ his Intention to vest the Estate in seven Trustees to be Named by the Society-

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Resolved That the President [illegible]
& Messrs. James Pemberton & Tench Coxe to be the Trustees
named by this Society to Receive the said Donation ac
=cordingly on its behalf. —

Resolved that in future the reports of Committee appointed
on business by this society be made in writing —

Resolved That all persons proposing to future new Members
to be Elected of this Society do present their names in writi
to the secretary with the names of the proposers subscribed
at the foot thereof

The Committee as Subscriptions &c Report, they have made some
Progress in the Business Committed to them
but not having Compleated the same they are Continued
for that purpose.

The Report of the acting Committee as Contained in their Minute
up to the 13th Instant was read and thereupon

Resolved Unanimouly that the secretary do Cause Publication to be
made of the appointment of Mr. John Oladen as secretary
to the acting Committee to the end that application may
be made to him by all such Persons as shall conceive them=
selves entitled to relief from this Institution and their
claims be laid before the acting Committee accordingly

Resolved That an address be drawn up to the Charitable &
humane of all Classes solicitiing their aid to the funds of
the society agreeably to the reports of the acting Committee

Resolved That Doctor Benjamin Rush & Mr. Tench Coxe be
appointed a Committee for Drawing up the said address

Resolved That it be Recommended to the acting Committee that they
Examine into the Practices had under the Law for Chang
ing the Mode of Punnishment and Report to the society
their observations therein —

Mr. B. Wynkoop Reported to the Meeting, the thanks of John Graham
and Francis Hopkins Liberated through the Intention of
the acting Committee.

Resolved that Mr. Shoemaker Mr. Swanwick & Mr. Wistar be
a Committee to Frame Rules of order for this Society —

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Report was made from the Electing Committee of the names of the members by them Elected which were ordered to be Inserted in the Minute & are as follows —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Joseph Cupperthwaite | Dr. John Andrews | Dr Benj. Franklin |
| William Mackenzie | James Pemberton | William Bingham |
| Robert Mollyneux | Henry Hill | Anth. F. Wolbert |
| Joseph Pilmore | Robert Blackwell | Dr. Casper Wistar |
| Casper Weiberg | John Medin | Thomas Penrose |
| William Rawle | William Young | Samuel Miles |
| Thomas Shields | Benjamin Shaw | Josiah Hewes |
| Ashbell Green | George Latimer | John James |
| Richard Vaux | Elliston Perot | John Perot |
| Jonathan Dawes | Thomas Clifford | Henry Drinker |
| William Ashby | Phil. Benezet | Dr. Charles Moore |
| James Starr | John Starr | Peter L. Lloyd |
| Ben. W. Morris | George Fox | Jerry Warder |
| Richard Parker | Jacob Bacon | George Mead |
| Samuel Coates | Thomas Morris | Joseph Paschall |
| John Evans | Caleb Carmalt | Charles Marshall Jun. |
| John Wharton | John Field | William Ganigues |
| William Coates | Dr. T. Hutchinson | Joseph Crookshank |
| Thomas Humphreys | Dr. T. Foulke | Benjamin Horner |
| David Potts | Daniel Tyson | Caleb Atmore |
| Henry Smith | Andrew Carson | William Will |
| Richard Gardner | William Hall | James Johnson |
| Edwd. George | Thomas Watson Jun. | Ezekiel Kanaan |
| Samuel Spalding | William W. Ellheney | |
| Wm. F. Franklin | Thomas Dobson | Dr. J. Magan |
| Benjamin Duffield | M. M. O. Bryan | Dr. James Sproat |
| Jos. Anthony Jun. | James Bringhurst | D. T. R. B. Rogers |
| Ed. Wharton | Robert Taggart | R. Stocker |
| Jere Parker | Thomas Fitzsimmons | George Roberts |
| Mark Wilcox | Charles Marshall Jun. | Jere Fisher |
| Josiah Coates | Robert Roberts | Richard Adams |
| Thomas Palmer | John Claypoole | |

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The Society then adjourned to their Next general Meeting

at a meeting for the society for alleviating the Miseries of Publick Prisons held at the German School House Octo. 8th 1787

Present

Richard Wells
Henry Helmuth } vice Presidents
John Swanwick Secretary

Dr. Benjamin Rush
C. Marshall
John Olden
T. Harrison
J. Shoemaker

George Duffield
Jno. Morrison
Jno. Keighn
James Reynolds
James Whitall

× When folks are sick
And come to me
I pity in prise
And bleeds them,
And after that
If they choose to die
May then give me
C. Lettsom

& Sundry other Members of the society not enumerated

Doctor Benjamin Rush Communicated to the Board a letter which had been addressed to him by Doctor John Coakeley Lettsom of London Relative to the Celebrated Mr. Howards late Journey to the Mediterranean &c. whereupon the same being highly approved of was ordered to be Inserted as the minutes of the society & published in the News papers it is as follows

" On Howards return from Turkey he refused any public honors, which put a stop to the encrease of the fund under his name, out of £1500 subscribed above £500 have been returned. of the appropriation of the residue we Cannot yet conclude, but my Idea will appear from the Gentlemans Magazine inclosed In which I have grafted a part of thy Letter. Though Howard absolutely refused the public honor, he seemed highly gratified by the Spirit of the Nation and truly Sensible of the Grateful sence of his labours; I was Closeted with him three hours soon after his return, and though I have introduced to him Persons of fashion title & respect, he remains immovably fixed against all intreaties to admit of Public honor. He has not Published any account of his Asiatic tour as it must be Illustrated with at least thirteen Plates, and he remained here scarcely a month before he set off for Holland, in which kingdom he is now Employed in visiting the prisons, but his papers he informed me were in readiness for the Press. Happily he had Duplicates of his remarks and these were kept in different Trunks, with these he Travelled safely through different regions, till he arrived in Bishopsgate street.

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London; and just as he got out of the Stage to take a hackney Coach into which he was removing his Trunks, one was stolen and has never Since been recover'd Besides a duplicate of his Travels, it contained twenty five Guineas and a Gold watch a friend of mine who visited New York the next day was told by a Convict, such Intelligence and Communications have they; that the papers were all burnt of the lazeretto at Marseilles ~~the Trunk~~ no duplicates, and luckily the Drawings were in the preserved Trunk. Howard told me he valued them so highly, that had they been stolen, he would have returned to Marseilles to acquire new ones, to Enter this place is forbidden to strangers, and was by Singular stratagem that he got in nine days successively, without being Discovered, having learn'd at Marseilles, that an English Protestant was Confined in a prison at Lyons, into which the intrusion of a stranger was always punished with Confinement to the Gallies for Life, the difficulty of access only stimulated the enthusiasm of howard. He learned as well as he could, the different turnings and windings that ~~lead to~~ the prisoner he more particularly wished to visit. Howard is a little man of extenuated features, who might Pass for a Frenchman: He dressed himself like a Frenchman with his hat under his arm, and passed hastily by twenty four Officers, and entered the very apartment, he wished to see, without suspicion; he discover'd the secret to an English minister at Lyons, who advised his immediate departure, as he would Inevitably be discovered if he remained at Lyons all night He therefore departed hastily, and got to nice: When he arrived at Paris it was almost eleven o'Clock at night, he had Concluded to depart at three in the morning by the Bruxels stage, and to the in he sent his Baggage, and hoping to get an hour or two Sleep, he went to bed.

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He had scarcely fallen asleep, before his room door was forced open in a stalk'd a formal dressed man preceded by a servant bearing two lighted candles, and solemnly interogated in French to this purpose Are you John Howard: I am replied the Englishman did you travel with such a person, I do not know any thing of him said Howard. The question was again repeated, and the same reply (but with some warmth) was given to it The personage left the candles on a Table in the room, and departed, Immediatly Howard dressed himself and stole to the Lyon's hotel; he heard of two Messengers in persuit of him, but he arrived at Brussells undiscovered. At Viana he proposed to remain two days, but the Emperor Joseph, hearing of his arrival, desired to see him; but as he had found his prisons upon a bad plan and badly Conducted by persons in high trust, Howard avoided an Interview at first by Joseph sending him a message that he should Case his own house for an Interview, the Englishman Consented to the emperors request. The moment Howards name was anounced, he quitted his Secretaries, and retired with him into a little room, in wich there was neither Picture nor Looking glass - Here Joseph received a man who never bent his knee to nor kissed the hand of any monarch, here he heard truths that astonished him, and often did he seize hold of Howards hand with inexpressible satisfaction and aprobation. You have said Howard: Who have been confined in dungeons without seeing daylight for twenty months who have not yet had a trial, and should they be found Innocent, your Majesty have not in your power to make a Compensation for the Violated rights of humanity." To the honor of this great prince, let it be rembered, that alterations were made in the prisons before Howards departure."

The Committee appointed for obtaining subscriptions of the members of this society Report that they wish two persons to be added to their number for carrying on this Business whereupon Mr. John Starr & Mr. Isaac Poulson, were appointed for that purpose

The Committee on the address to the public made report of their proceeding, therein the address was ordered to be published in the Museum & Inserted on the minutes of the society it is as follows

# To The friends of Humanity

The Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisoners begleave to solicit the attention of the Public to the objects of their Institution

From the weakness & Imperfection of all Governments, there must necessarily exist, in every Community, certain portions of misery which lie beyond the reach of Law to prevent or relieve To supply this deficiency in Philadelphia this Society was Instituted, and if a Judgement be formed of its future usefullness, from the success that hath attended its first efforts, There is reason to believe it will prove a blessing to our City; not only as the means of relieving distress, but likewise of preventing Vice.

The funds of the Society at present are Confined to an annual Subscription of ten Shillings from each of its members, and a Ground Rent of £14 the donation of the Hon. John Dickinson Esquire These Sums are by no means Equal to numerous objects and extensive wishes of the Society. They have therefore taken this method of soliciting further benefactions from their fellow Citizens. To a People professing Christianity, it will be sufficient only to mention that acts of Charity to the Miserable Tenants of Prisons are upon record among the first of Christian Duties - from the Sadis, Therefore, Whom Heaven has Blessed with affluence, and the stile greater Gift of Sympathy - From Gentlemen, who acknowledge the obligations to humanity, from the relation of our Species to each other in a common and universal Father and from the followers of the Compassionate saviour of mankind, of every rank & discription the society thus humbly solicit an addition to their Funds Donations for the Charitable & humane Purposes of the society will be received by Mr. Thomas Rogers, in Elbow Lane signed by order of the Society.

Philad.a Augt. 16th 1787 Wm. White President

The Comittee appointed to devise Rules for the Government of the society Reported that they had not yet Compleated the same but

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assume leave to sit again on that Business, which they hope to have Compleated at next Meeting.

on Motion Resolved

That the acting Committee be directed to procure Mr. Howards history of Prisons for the use of the society to be lodged with the secretary of the Acting Committee—

That a letter be written to Mr. John Howards with an account of the Institution and progress of the Society and requesting some Communications from him as are Calculated to further the objects of the society—

That Dr. Benjamin Rush & Wm. Rawle Esqr. be appointed Committee to form a draft of said letter & report the Same to this society at their next General Meeting

That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the Effect produced by the Late penal Law on the Criminals now at work in our streets & also on its Influence upon Society, and whether the law is duly exerted, if not, to Collect such observations as may assist in Correcting any abuses suffered therein

That Henry Helmuth, Richard wells, Christopher Marshall, Thomas Harrison and Philip Benezet be of the said Committee In the room of Benjamin Wynkoop & George Duffield. The following Gentlemen were appointed Members of the acting Committee viz't Benjamin Shaw & Jeremiah Fisher

The Society then adjourned.

at a Special Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held at the German School house novem. 16th 1787

Present

William White President

Richard Wells vice President

John Swanwick Secretary

Joseph Moore William Rogers Benjamin Shaw James Olden Thos. Harrison
George Duffield Jeremiah Fisher Isaac Parrish James Whitesall Jas. Shoemaker
& other Members of the said society—

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On Motion Resolved

That a Committee be appointed to Desire a proper Emblem and Certificate of Membership for this society and make Report thereof at the next meeting

That Doctor Benjamin Rush John Oldden and John Swanwick be the said Committee

At a Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public Prisons held at the Baptist Meeting House in Lodgeally January 14th 1788.

Present

William White President

Richard Wells Vice President

J Swanwick Secretary

T Rogers J Whitecall. George Duffield Jn. Reighn

B. Rush T. Harrison Wm. Rodgers Benjamin Shaw

Jn. Oldden Wm. Lane Jn. Morrison

and other Members of the Society

Resolved

That Mr. Jn. Oldden & Thomas Wistar be appointed Judges of the Election now to be held of officers for the Society for the Current Year.

The acting Committee Report that they have purchased Howards History of Prisons & that the same is deposited with their secretary for the use of the society.

The Committy on a Letter to Mr. Howards Report the following which was agreed to an directed to be signed be the Presidena

Sir,

The society for alliveating the Miseries of Public Prisons in the City of Philadelphia beg leave to forward to you a Copy of their Constitution and to Request at

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the same time such Communications from you upon the Subject of their Institution as may favour their Designs

The Society heartly Concurr with the Friends of Humanity in Europe, in expressing their obligation to you for having renedered the Miserable Tenants of Prisons, the objects of more General attention & Compassion and for having pointed out the means of not only alleviating their Miseries but of Preventing these Crimes & misfortunes which are the Causes of them

With sincere wishes that you may injoy the pleasure of seeing the success of your Labours in the Cause of Humanity in Every Part of the Globe. We are

with great Respect & Esteem

Your Sincere Friend & well Wishers

Signed by order of the Society

The Committee appointed to Report on the Effects of the Wheelbarrow Law &c made a Report whereupon

Resolved

That the Consideration thereof to be postponed until Tuesday week and that Notice of a Special Meeting to be held on that Evening notice to be given in publick News Papers

The Committee appointed to Desire Rules for the Government of the society not being ready to report are Continued on that business & Desired to report at next Meeting

The Committee appointed to design an Emblem for the society are also continued on that business.

The Electing Committee made report & it was ordered to be entered on the minute as follows.

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At a Meeting of the Electing Committee of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons the 11th Mo: 14th 1787

Present

James Whitecall — Isaac Parrish — Thomas Harrison
John Hayden — James Reynolds — Joseph Moore
William Lane — Charles Marshall — Jacob Shoemaker

The following persons were duly elected Members of this Society

Robert Morris — Daniel Hayden — Jedediah Snowdon
James Abercrombie — Benjamin Fuller — John Connelly
Samuel Pleasants — Robert Towers — Wm Brown
George Leib — Joseph Sims — John McCree
William Lippencott — Ebenezer Large — Francis White
William Fisher — Nicholas Collin — Jos. Clarkson
William Beaver — Richard Humphreys —

The Committee appointed to Procure a draft of a Conveyance from J. Dickinson Esquire to the society made report whereupon:

Resolved

That the Conveyance being agreeable to the said Committee & Mr. Dickinson be accordingly adopted

That the Name of Mr. Thomas Harrison be added to the Committee appointed to Receive Mr. Dickinson's donation in Trust for the Society.

The acting Committee made Report the Consideration whereof Referred to next meeting

In the room of W. Rogers & J. Keighn Mess.rs Thomas Humphreys & Wm. Lippencott were appointed members of the acting Committee

A Present from the Travis Jury of the Supreme Court was mentioned to the Society & Gratefully accepted.

an Election of Officers was then Held for the Present year and the following were duly Chosen

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President

William White

Vice Presidents

Richard Wells
Henry Helmuth

Secretaries

John Swanwick
William Rogers

Treasurers

Thomas Rogers

Physicians

Benjamin Rush
William Shippen
John Jones
Gerardus Clarkson

Electing Committee

George Duffield Charles Marshall Jacob Shoemaker
Tench Coxe Thomas Harrison William Lane
James Starr John Olden John Cloxpool
John Reigh James Whitall Caleb Evans

acting Committee for the present Quarter

Francis Baily Jeremiah Fisher William Lippincott
John Morrison Benjamin Shaw Thomas Humphreys

Secretary to the acting Committee

John Olden

The Society then adjourned. –

At an adjourned Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held at the Baptist Meeting House Lodge alley January 22nd. 1788.

Present

William White President
Richard Wells Vice President
J Swanwick } Secretarys
Wm. Rogers }
Ben Rush } Physicians
Wm. Shippen }
G Clarkson.

George Duffield C Marshall J. Shoemaker Ben. Shaw
T. Coxe Th. Harrison F Baily Jer. Fisher
J Starr J. Olden J. Morrison & other members of the Society

It was Resolved

That the Committee appointed at the Plotka last be Requested to draw up a Petition to the Legislature to be presented at their next ~~Meeting~~ Session praying an Ammendment in the mode of Enacting the Penal Law of this state passed the 15th. September 1789 so as more effectually to answer the benevolent Doings of it & to Report the same to this Society at their Next Meeting on Wednesday week.

To which time the society then adjourned—

At an adjourned Meeting of the society alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held at the German School House in Cherry ally January 29th 1788.

Present

William White. President
Richard Wells. Vice President
Wm. Rogers. Secretary
Benjamin Rush. Physician

Jea. Duffield. Tench Coxe, T. Harrison, Caleb Lownes, John Reigh, James Whitehall, John Olden, William Lane, Jacob Shoemaker, & John Claypoole, of the Electing Committee also John Morrison, B. Shaw, T. Baily, Wm. Lippencott & T. Humphreys of the acting Committee—with other Members of the society—

The Committee as requested the 22nd. Inst. brought in a draft of a Petition for the Legislature, which after being debated by Paragraphs & amended, was adopted and is as follows

To the Representatives of the freeman of the Commonwealth of Pennsa. in General assembly met—

The representation & Petition of the Subscribers, Citizens of Pennsylvania:—

Your Petitioners have ~~seen~~ viewed with Pleasure the act of a former assembly for the Performing of the Penal Laws of the state, by rendering them "less sanguinary & more proportionate to Crimes" and though your petitioners Conceive that the Good Ends thereby intended ~~[illegible]~~ hitherto been fully answered, yet they presume to suggest that the mode of Punishment adopted in the act for amending the Penal Law". will be the more Likely to answer the Desired Purpose, by means

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of some amendments a few of which your Petitioners beg leave to lay before the House

The Punnishment of Criminals by hard Labor publichly & disgratefully Imposed" as Indicated in the Preamble to the Law, your Petitioners wish the house would be Pleased to Revise; being fully Convinced that Punnishment by more private or even solitary labor, would more successfully tend to reclaim the unhappy objects: as it might be Conducted more steadily & uniformly, & the kind & Portion of Labor better adapted to the Different abbilities of the Criminal the Evils of Familiarizing young Minds to Vicious Characters would be removed and the Opportunities of begging Money would be prevented for although the Criminals are for bid to have money in their possession, yet no Penalty is inflicted on the Persons furnishing them therewith.

Your Petitioners also would wish to Recomend to the attention of the House the very Great Importance of a Seperation of the sexes in the Public Prisons and that some more Effectual Provisions be made for the Prohibition of Spiritous Liquor amongst the Criminals, the use of which tends to Lessen the true sense of their situation & prevents those usefull Reflections which might be Produced by solitary labor & strict Temperance.

Your Petitioners therefore respectfully request the House will be Pleased to take the Penal Law under their Consideriations & make such Provision thereon as may more affectually answer the Good & humane purposes thereby originally Intended.

Resolved that a Committee of 24 Persons be appointed to procure the Publication of 50 Copies of the foregoing Petitions & to procure Signers thereunto, also to attend any Committee the House of assemble may appoint on the said Case.

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The following Persons were Named for the said Committee of 24 and agreed to — Viz. — Richard wells. Dr. B. Rush Tench Coxe, Caleb Lownes, Robert Towers, Thomas Harrison, Lawrance Sickle, Henry, Wharton, Philip Benezett John Connelly, andrew Carson, Wm. Lippencott, Dr. Wistar, Benjamin Fuller, George Meade, Caleb atmore Jedediah Swaysey, John Claypoole, James Reynolds, Charles Marshall, Samuel Coates Joseph Moore Doctor Griffits, and William Ashby. —

The Society adjourned till Monday Evening the 18th of February, then to meet at the German School house in order to take up the report of the acting Committee. —

At an adjourned. Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held at the German School house in Cherry ally February 19th 1788. —

Present

William White. President
Richard Wells. vice President
William Rogers. Secretary.

Thomas Harrison, George Duffield, James Starr, James Whitall T. Baily, John Vaiden. Benjamin Shaw, Thomas Humphreys and other members of the society. —

The secretary stated to the society, the Reasons of the meeting being held on this Evening, in stead of last Evening, agreeably the society's appointed — viz. — A Billet directed to him by Doctor Helmouth notifying that the German Congregation would make use of the School house on Monday Evening, but that on the following Evening it should be at our service, Consequent here upon the secretary, with the aprobation of the President made the Due alteration, which on being reported to the society ~~[illegible]~~ Convened, the society expressed their full approbation thereof

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The Minutes of the acting Committee for the last Quarter, which were read at the 2 preceding Meetings, were now taken up & Consider'd and on a Motion made and seconded for an act of Assembly for Incorporation of the society, agreeably to the acting Committee's Recommendation after some debating, it was agreed that for the Present the Consideration thereof be postponed.—

**Adjourned**

At a Quarterly Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisons held at the German School house in Cherry ally april 14th 1788.

**Present**

William White, President
Richard Wells, Vice President
William Rogers, Secretary.

Thomas Harrison, John Oldden, Jacob Shoemaker, James Whitesall Caleb Lowrey, John Cleypoole, of the Electing Committee.—
B. Shaw, Wm Lippencott, John Morrison, S. Bailey & Thomas Humphreys, of the acting Committee and many other members of the Society.—

The Committee appointed in august last to frame rules for the Goverment of the society made report, which being Read & amended were adopted & are as follows.—

1st. That Business be Entered upon as soon after the hour appointed for Meeting as there shall be 12 Members present

2nd. When the Presiding officer takes the Chair, the Members shall take their seats, avoiding Private Conversations or any thing tending to prevent the orderley transacting of Business.—

3d. The first Business at each stated Meeting, after reading the Minutes of the last general Meeting, & Intermediate special Meetings (if any) shall be the reading the Minutes of the acting Committee & then receiving the report of Other Committees.—

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4th. No Member shall without Permission of the Society speak more than twice to one subject except to Explain somthing he may have before said

5th. The President shall preserve the rules & Regulations of the Society, shall have ~~Leave~~ Power to Call any Member to order who may transgress the same, in which Case the Society present may be appeal'd to who shall Decide.

6th. Every Member speaking on the Business before the Society or making a motion shall stand & address himself to the Chair & if required by any two Members shall Reduce his Motion to Writing.

7th. at the opportunities of Committees one Name shall be mentioned & decided upon before another is proposed.

8th. No Member shall Introduce any new matter, untill upon application to the President, he shall be Informed there is no Business before the society.

9th. No member shall be Interupted while speaking unless upon a Question of order.

10th. after the Business of each Meeting is gone through the Minutes of the Evening shall be read.

The Committee appointed in November last for devising a proper Emblem & Certificate of Membership for this society are continued

The Committee on the address to the honourable the assemble of Pennsylvania appointed January 29th made report that the have attended to that Business, and and as the petition is still before the House — Resolved that the said ~~petition~~ Committee be Continued

a Report was made from the Electing Committee, which was ordered to be Inserted on the Minutes & is as follows —.

"At a Meeting of the Electing Committee of the society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons 3 month 28th 1788. Present —

John Hughes, George Duffield, James Mitchell, John Olden Thomas Harrison & Caleb Lowns,

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Charles Marshall, James Starr, Jacob Shoemaker.

The following Persons were duly Elected Members of this society

Robert Aman. John Gardner John Anthony
Jacob Bankson James Moore Joseph Tatem
Elias Boys Samuel Davis Abraham Mitchell
Richard Tittermary Wm. Haysham Elisha Gordon
William Marshall John Todd Nathaniel Fellows
Ephraim Clark James Cooper James Mayes
John Dunlap John Baily watchmaker William Adcock
David E Claypoole Michel Conner James Sterling burlington

By order of the Committee
(Signed) Jacob Shoemaker Jun. Secretary

The acting Committee, by their secretary, reported to the Society their Proceedings during the Last Quarter, which were read.—

Jaremiah Fisher one of the acting Committee having been obliged to Resign, Kerney Wharton was requested to supply his Place accordingly Consented.—

In the room of J. Baily & John Morrison. Tom.s Wistar & John Connelly were appointed Members of the acting Committee.—

On Motion, Resolved that Richard Wells & Thomas Harrison be authorised to Inspect the Treasurer's account for the Past year and make report at the next stated Meeting.—

Thomas Palmer, Daniel Oladen, John McCree & William Rogers are requested to procure the signatures of such members who have not signed the Constitutions of the society & to Collect the arrearages due on the subscription List.—

Adjourned

At a Quarterly Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held at the German Dwelling house in Cherry alley 14th July 1788.

## Present

Doctor William White. President. Richard Wells vice President Thomas Rogers, Treasurer, William Rogers, Secretary. Benjamin Rush & Gerardus Clarkson Physicians - with the Electing Committees & sundry other Members of the Institution.

On motion of the secretary, that a Number of the printed Copies of the Rules for the Goverment of the society, be struck off for the Benefit of the Members - The Motion being seconded Was agreed

Resolved that 300 Copies be the Number -

John Todd & Charles Marshall are appointed a Committe to Carry the same into Execution.

The sum of 15/in hard Money was Presented by James P. Malcom to the society through the hands of the President.

Resolved that thanks of the society be given him by the secretary.

The officiating secretary being now unexpectedly called away & the other secretary being absent Doctor Samuel Magaw was requested to take down the minutes for the remaining Part of the Evening, which he obligingly Concented to do. and are as follows.

A, Statement was given in, Examined and Compared with the vouchers, "of the Money received for the use of the Prison society together with the Disbursments" The Balance in the Treasurer's hands appears to be £ 15.. 9.. 4..

As several Sums of Money have been, at different Times received by the Treasurer, at the Depreciation thereof, and he is likely to sustain a Loss thereby: it was moved and agreed, that it be reffered to the Committee who settled the Treasurer's accounts to ascertain the same & to report thereon at the Next Meeting.

The Committee on devising a Proper Emblem &c. are Continued also The Committee on the address to the honourable. the assemble

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The Society reconsidered the vote respecting the Number of Copies of the Rules &c. directed, as above, to be Printed and Resolved that the Number shall be 500.

The acting Committee by their secretary, reported their Proceedings, during the Period of the last Quarter, which report read on his Place. —

The Time of Kerney Wharton (as Substitute for Jeremiah Fisher) and of Benjamin Shaw, Member of the acting Committee, having expired; the society Proceeded to the Election of 2 Persons to fulfill the vacancy; Kerney Wharton was appointed & with him was Elected Caleb Lownes.

The Electing Committee brought in their report of Sundry Persons duly elected Members of this Society, which was read and is as follows. —

"At a Meeting of the Electing Committee &c. at James & Shoemaker's Store the 11th of the 7mo 1788.

Present 9 of the Committee. —

The following Persons were duly Elected Members of this Institution

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph Parker Norris. | Robert Hopkins Junr. |
| Thomas L. Moore | Daniel Drain |
| John Bleakly | Samuel M. Fox. |
| Joseph Few | John Keable |
| Dr. John Redman | Henry Physick |
| William Lawrance | Robert Bethell |

By order of the Committee
(Signed) Jacob Shoemaker Junr. —

At the request of the acting Committee, Moved & agreed, that 9 Members more be appointed to assist them in some Important Cases, where Difficulties have already arisen, and are likely yet to occur in the Discharge of their Trust. —

The following Persons are accordingly appointed: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Doctor William White | George Meade |
| Doctor George Duffield | Doctr. Nicholas Collin |
| Richard Wells | Thomas Morris |
| Doctor Benjn. Rush | Samuel Coates |

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John M'Crea, a Member of the Committee appointed to procure the Signatures of such Members as had not signed the Constitution of this Society & to Collect the arrearages Due on the subscription list, reports, that he had procured 40 signatures, and Collected £15.. 5.. 3. which sum he had Paid into the hands of the Treasurer.

On Motion, agreed, That a Committee be appointed to Inspect, adjust & arrange the whole Business of Accounts & Payments due to the society on the subscriptions, as they stand at Present — The following are the Persons composing said Committee, viz —

Richard Wells
George Meade
John M'Crea
John Keighn

The Minutes of this Meeting having been Read, the Society

Adjourned.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the Prison Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held at the German School House in Cherry ally

October 14th 1788.

Present

Doctor Wm. White President
Richard Wells vice President
J Swanwick & W Rogers. Secretaries
with sundry other Members of the Institution

It was on Motion Resolved that it be Recommended to the Committee as the printing of the regulation of that the same be Printed on a Like type on Paper and bound up with the Constitution of the society —

Mess. R. Wells & T. Harrison are Continued a Committee to settle the Deprecation on the Treasurers accounts

Mess. Rush Oldden & Swanwick are Continued a Committee on a suitable Emblem for the Society.

The Committee on the address to the Legislature are also Continued

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The Minutes of the acting Committee to this time were Read and the following Members elected – of the Committee

Mr. Charles Marshall in Room of Mr. William Lippencott
Mr. Isaac Parrish . . . . . Mr. J. Humphreys
Mr. James Cooper in room of Mr. K. Wharton

The Electing Committee Report was then read and is as follows

at a Meeting of the Electing Committee of the Prison Society, at the German School house the 14th of the 10th month 1788, the following Persons were duly Elected Members of this Institution —

Mathew Carey
Joseph G. F. Bend
Bartholomew Wistar
William Lucas

Committee Present, Charles Marshall, Caleb Lownes John Olden, James Starr, James Whitecall, William Zane, Thomas Harrison, Jacob Shoemaker —

By order of the Electing Committee
Jacob Shoemaker Junr. Sectry. "

The Committee for arrangeing the Business of accounts and Payments are Continued for that Purpose —

Resolved

that the Committee on the address to the Legislature be desired to pay attention to that Business early in the next Session of the assemble whereof the secretary is requested to give them notice —

The Committee in ~~alleviating~~ collecting Subscriptions are Continued and the society adjourned to their next Quarterly meeting at six o'clock in the Evening —

At a special Meeting of the society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons, held at the German School House November 27th 1788 —

— Present —

Doctor William white, President
Hyanwick Secretary with sundry other officers and members of the Institution. —

The resolution of Council was lay before the society by which a Committee was appointed to Enquire into the State of the Jail of the City and County. Whereupon it was resolved

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That a Committee be appointed to Meet and Converse with the said Committee of Council - The following Members were accordingly appointed -

Doctor Duffield, Wm. Rogers, Jos. Reigher, Jos. Thaw, Benjamin Wynkoop, Doctor Griffitts, Richard Wells, Wm. Lippincott & Thomas Harrison, in addition to the present acting Committee

Adjourned

At a stated quarterly Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held at the German School House in Cherry Ally, Monday Evening January 12. 1789.

Present

Richard Wells, Vice President.

William Rogers, Secretary - with other Officers & Members of the Institution. —

The Minutes of the acting Committee for the last 3 Months were read by their Secretary. - and the Time of Thom. Wistar, as also of John Connelly having expired, George Meade & Benjamin W. Morris were appointed Members of that Committee in their Room. —

The Committee on printing the Rules for the Govt. of the Society, made report that they had duly attended to & finished that Business, Richard Wells George Meade, John McFee & John Reigher who were appointed in July last to Inspect adjust & arrange the whole Business of Accounts & Payments &c. reported a Form which being Examined, was addopted, and afterwards returned to the said Committee, in order to Carry it into Execution

The same Committee, are requested to settle the Depreciation on the Treasurer's accounts. —

The Committee on procuring the Signatures of such Members who have not signed the Constitution & on Collecting the

arrearages due to the Society, are Continued, excepting Wm. Rogers Who begs leave to be excused, in whose Room John Olden was Nominated. – The Committee are Thomas Palmer, Daniel Olden, John M'Crea & John Olden. –

Doctr. Benjamin Rush, John Swanwick & John Olden Who were appointed last November 12 Months, on devising a proper Emblem & Certificate of Membership for this Society are still Continued & requested to make report thereof at the next Meeting

The Committee on the address to the Legislature, appointed January 29th. are Continued. –

On Motion, Resolved that the Secretaries of the society furnish some Member of this & all other Committees with a Minute of their appointments respectively & that this be considered as a Standing Rule.

The Committee appointed by the society at a Special Meeting held 27th. Novr. 1788 – to Confer with a Committee of the supreme Executive Council on the State of the Jail of the City & County reported that they had attended to that Business by Drawing up a Representation of the whole Matter, which the in a Body Delivered into the hands of the Committee of Council, in the Council Chamber, which on being read, the said Committee of Council Gratefully received, expressing their entire approbation thereof – a Copy of the said representation being Now laid before the society & read by their secretary, agreed that the society highly approve the same & request to have it Entered on their minutes. – See the End of this Booke

On Motion, Resolved that Richard Wells, Doctr. White Doctr. Duffield, Joseph Pennd, Caleb Lownes, Thomas Wistar & William Rogers, be a Committee to Examine a Pamplet entitled "Thoughts on the Construction & Policy of Prisons" & if they think any advantage will result from a republication thereof that they have not less than 150 Copies printed and furnished each Member of Council & assemble with a Copy – The Committee are also requested to have it Published in the News Papers

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Richard Wells laid before the Society a Minute Book of a former Prisonsociety instituted in this City ordered that it be offered to the Committee on Examining & Printing the above Pamphlet to report theron —

agreeable to the first article of the Constitution the Proceeded to elect by Ballot their officers for the Present year, whenitappeared that following Members were duly Chosen;

Doctr. William White President } Doctr. George Duffield,
Richard Wells vice president

John Swanwick }
William Rogers } secretarys } Thomas Rogers, Treasurer }

Doctors { Gerardus Clarkson
Benjn. Rush
Samuel P. Griffitts
Casper Wistar } Physicians

John Leighn — Wm. Lippincott
Charles Marshall — Benjn. Shaw
Joseph Tatem — John Bleakly
Thomas Parker — James Whitehall
Francis Baily — John Holden &
Thomas Wistar — William Zane
} Electors Commtee

The society then adjourned

At a stated quarterly Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held at the German School House in Cherry ally, Monday Evening 13th april 1789.

President
Doctor William White President. Richard Wells, vice President, Wm. Rogers secretary

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With other officers and [illegible]

The Minutes of the acting Committee for the last three Months, were read — and it appearing that the time of Caleb Cowes had Expired, John Beably was appointed in his Room, James Cooper Concents to serve on the said Committee 3 Months longer. —

The Committee on settling the Deprecation on the Treasurer's Accounts, as well as Examining and adjusting the same, Reported, that on the 8th of April Inst. There was a Ballance in the Treasurer's hands of £ 7. 13.. 2. ——

On Motion, Resolved, That a Committee for procuring signatures, be Continued & that the be authorised to appoint a Person to Collect the Arearages due, who is to be Paid for his Trouble. —

The Committee on devising a Proper Emblem &c. are Continued & Particularly requested to report at our next stated Meeting. ——

The Committee on addressing the Legislature &c. Reported, That a Law was Passed by the Assembly on the Business of their appointment to which they beg leave to refer — The Committee are Discontinued. ——

On account of the Progress made by the Legislative Body in the Bill relating to Prisoners, &c. The Committee on Printing Pamphlet, spoken of at the last Quarterly Meeting, found it unnecessary to Proceed & are therefore Dismissed — But are Continued on the Minute Booke of a former Prison Soc. Instituted in this City. ——

The Electing Committee Delivered in their report, by which it appears that the following Persons having been balloted for were duly Chosen Members of this Institution. Viz

Thomas Affleck
Andrew Geyer
Charles Crawford
Joseph McGoffin
Wm. Rida
Doct. Michael Leib

On Motion, Resolved, That Richard Wells, George Mead, Thomas Wistar, John Keighn & John Olden, be a Committee

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peruse the Penal Law lately enacted & report how the benevolent Purposes Intended thereby can be furthered by this Institution & if necessary call a Meeting of the Society.

Adjourned

At a Meeting of the society held July 13th. 1789 —

Present

William White — Isaac Parrish
Richard Wells — Geo. Meade
J. Crawford — James Cooper. —
Samuel P Griffitts — John Swanwick

No other Member appearing the Society adjourned to Meet on Tuesday Evening next.

At a Meeting of the society held on Tuesday July 21st. 1789

Present

Richard Wells
Wm. Rogers
John Swanwick
} with other Members of the soci

The Minutes of the last Quarterly meeting and of the acting Committee were read.

The following Gentleman went out of the acting Committee Messr. Charles Marshall. J. Cooper & Isaac Parrish in the room of these were appointed Dr. J. Morris Caleb Attmore & Elias Boys —

The Committee on Signature not having made a report on the business Committee to them it is now referred to the acting Committee who are requested to obtain signatures & urge the Collection of arrearages of subscriptions by appointing a proper Person to Collect the same. —

The Committee on Emblems made report which not being approved by the Society it was recommitted to the Committee formarly on that Business to report thereon to the next Meeting —

The Committee on the Penal Laws are Continued on that Business The Committee that were appointed to report,

Relative to the former Society established for the purposes of this one are Continued for that Business.

It was determined that in future all report of Committees shall be made in writing.

The society request Mr Benjamin Morris to act as Treasurer on the decease of the former one - untill the Next Election to be held in January.

Mr Thomas Wistar gave Notice of his Intentions at the Next Meeting to propose an amendment to the Constitution as far as is necessary to supply the Occasional defect of any of the officers of the society by decease or Removal -

The following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee to adjust the late Treasurers accounts and Pay over the Balance to Mr. Morris Now requested to receive the same

Messrs. T. Wistar & T. Morris

The Society then adjourned.

At a Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons at the German School house, 10 Month 12th 1799

Present Richard Wells Vice President and a Numb of other Members.

Neither of the secretaries being Present, John Olden was requested to act on their behalf this Evening. - The Minute of the acting Committee for the preceding Quarter being read, and the time of service of George Meade, and B. W. Morris, being now Expired, John Mc Crea & Joseph Tatem, were Nominated to supply their Places.

The Business of signatures &c. being refered at last Meeting to the Acting Committee, it appears they have appointed to Compleat the Collection of arrearages &c. they are Continued, & requested to have the business Perfected with all Expedition

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The Electing Committee reported the due Election of William Forbes proposed by Isaac Parish, Thomas Ballantyne, by John M'Crea, and Dr. William Thornton by Richard Wells. —

Committee on Certificates for Members produced a Written report Which with some alteration was approved, The whole as agreed to being as follows —

" The Committee appointed to devise a proper Emblem
" for the Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisons
" do Report, that in their opinion it will be proper to
" prepare one in the following form viz. —

This to Certify that on the day of in the
" year was admitted a Member of the
" Philadelphia society for alleviating the Miseries
" of Public Prisons —

Secretaries — President

" Emblem to be a view of the New Goal in this City —

— Motto —

" I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Zwanwick
Benjamin Rush
John Olden

And the Committee are desired to perfect the Business previous to Ensuing quarterly Meeting. —

Discharged the Committee sometime since appointed on the Penal Laws. and after a Considerable time spent in a discussion of the subject, another Committee was appointed viz Caleb Lownes. George Meade — John M'Crea, Richard Wells. Thomas Harrison, & Thomas Mistar, who are requested to point out to a special Meeting to be held on the 16th day of November Ensuing The President state of the Prisons and the best plan of a reformation therein. —

Report was made by the Committee, of a similiar Institution with this society, together with an extract from their proceedings, which after being read, the Concluding Resolution was adopted, the whole — the whole being as follows. —

" The Committee appointed to inspect the minute Book
" of a former Prison society in this City, report, that they
have considered the subject & find that on the 7th Feby 1776

A Society was formed under the name of the Philadelphia Society
"for assisting Distressed prisoners — That the following Persons
"were Chosen managers untill the annual Election which
was to be held in September every year. —

Joseph Allen
Isaac Howell
Christopher Marshall
Christopher Yudwick
Richard Wells
Benjamin Shoemaker
Joseph Paschall
Joseph Hansbury
Benjamin Marshall
Benjamin Poultney
Richard Humphreys
Samuel Sansom
} Managers & Thomas Moore, Treasurer

That a very Considerable Number of Citizens Chearfully became
Members and paid a annual subscription of ten shillings.
That the Managers by an attention to the Necessities of the
Prisoners appear to have afforded Comfortable relief to
them during the existance of the Society, which by the
following minutes on their Book appears to have been
about 19 Months Viz —

"The British army having entered the City of
Philadelphia in September (1777) possessed themselves
of the Public Goals, no further service Could be rendered
Nor was any Election held this month, for the appoint-
ment of New managers, so that the Philad^a. society for
assisting Distressed prisoners dissolved during this mem-
orable Perod Richard Wells Secretary

Your Committee Considering this attempt towards re-
lieving the distresses of our fellow Creatures as reflecting
a Credit on the Citizens of Philadelphia by an Institution
(as your Committee believe) entirely noval, the would
wish to perpetuate the rembrance of it by introducing
this short account upon our minutes.

Committee appointed to settle the late Treasurer's
account Reported, a statement therof, by which it
appears there remains in the hands of his

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Executors a ballance of £ 1.. 4.. 10. S. N. Morris the present Treasurer, is desired to apply for to receive the same on behalf of the society.

The following Resolution as a bye Law was agreed to — In Case of the Death or resignation of any Officer of the society, the President is hereby empowered to appoint any Member thereof to Officiate untill the next stated Meeting, when an Election of such officer shall take Place.

The Acting Committee are authorized to procure a member of blank Notices, and Contract with a suitable Person to deliver to all the Members such Notices properly filled up with the time and Place of our future Meetings

The society agree to adjourn to the sixteenth day of November ensuing —

John Oldden secretary pro. tem.

At a Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons &c. Monday Evening November 16th 1789:

Present Dr. George Duffield & R. Wells. vice Presidts
Wm. Rogers, Secretary & 9 other Members —

On Considering the Importance of the Present Meeting & as very few of the Society having Convened, it was moved & agreed to, that the society adjourn to Monday Evening next November 23d, and the acting Committee are Particularly requested, agreeably to the resolution of the last Meeting, to Cause the Members respectively to be served with printed Notices

---

At a Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons &c. Monday Evening November 23. 1789. —

Present, Dr. Wm. White. President
Dr. G. Duffield & R. Wells, vice Presidts
Wm. Rogers. Secretary, and many other Members

The Committee on the present state of the Prison & the best Plan of a Reformation therein, appointed october, made Report which was adopted, excepting the 13th & 14th Sections of the Law as alluded to in said report, which are to be reconsidered by a Committee, specially appointed for the Purpose, the Committe to Consist of 12 — viz. the Presidt, & 2 vice Presidents —

William Rogers, Doctr. Collin
Thomas Wistar John M'Crea
Dr. Clarkson, Caleb Lownes
Isaac Parrish, J. Connelly & T. Harrison who are directed to present the same in due from to the Mayor & Corporation.—

On motion it was unanimously agreed to, that the said be requested to have published in the public Papers of this City, the Resolution of Council of November 20th 1788, and the Information given Council in Consequence thereof December 16th following

At a stated quarterly meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public Prisons, held at the German School House, Monday Evening, January 11th 1790.

**Present**

Doctor William White, President; R. Wells, vice President; William Rogers, secretary, with other Members of the Institution

The Committee on the Certificates of Membership further reported, that they have applied to Mr. Robert Scott to have the same effected, who promises to Compleat the Engraving in the space of a fortnight, agreeably to the Directions of the society. Resolved, That the whole Business be refered to next Quarterly Meeting & that in the mean time Caleb Lownes requests R. Scott not to proceed with the engraving till further orders.

The Committee of twelve on the present state of the prisons &c reported, that the had attended to the Business of their appointment in presenting a memorial on that subject to the Mayor & Corporation, who have it now before them— The Committee are Continued & are requested to have a conferrence with the Committee of the Corporation & report at an adjourned Meeting to be held on Monday Evening the 25th Inst.

The proceedings of the acting Committee for the Last Quarter were Called for, but as their secretary did not appear with the records. Resolved that the same be taken up at the adjourned Meeting.

Agreeably to the 1st article of the Constitution

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The society proceeded to elect by Ballot their officers for the present year, when it appeared the following Members were duly Chosen. —

Doctor William White, Presidt. } Richard Wells, Doctr. Geo. Duffield } vice Presidts.

William Rogers, Thomas Wistar } secretaries } Benjamin W. Morris, Treasurer.

Doctors { Benjamin Rush, Gerardus Clarkson, Casper Wistar, Samuel P. Griffitts } Physicians.

William Lippencott, Jacob Shoemaker, Isaac Parrish, Bartholomew Wistar, Benjamin Shaw, Philip Benezet, John McCrea, Joseph Patem, John Bleakly, John Pleighr, Caleb Atmore, James Whiteall, } Acting Committee

At an adjourned Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held January 25th 1790 —

Present

William White president Richard Wells vice President Thomas Wistar secretary & Many other Members The Minutes of the last Meeting were read & likewise such of the proceeding of the Acting Committee as were entered on their Books.

Richard Wells reported on behalf of the Committee appointed on the Present State of the Prison that the had a Meeting with a Part of a Committee appointed by the Corporation of this City but for a sufficient number attending Nothing Conclusive was done The Committee are Continued. —

On Motion Resolved that this society will make Extracts from European Publications Containing such Facts as are Calculated to accomplish their views In the Improvement of the Goverment of Goals and that the will publish such Extracts accompanied with Suitable observations

Resolved That the Carrying the foregoing Resolution Into Effect be referred to the Committee on the Present

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State of the Prison with the addition of William Bingham Doctr. Megaw. Dr Griffitts & Thomas Parker who are Empowered to draw on the Treasurer for any Expence that may accrue Therein They are also Directed to take such Measures for advancing the designs of this Institution (either by Co-operating with the Corporation of this City or otherwise as they shall think proper. —

The Time of John Bleakley & John Morris in the acting Committe being expired Ebenezer Large and Joseph Snowden are appointed in their Places

Adjourned

---

At a quarterly Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisons, held on Monday Evening 12th of april 1790

The President & v. Presidents wells being necessarily absent & our vice Presidents. Dr. G. Duffield having departed this life since our Last quarterly Meeting - Doctor N Collin was unanimously requested to take the Chair, Present with him William Rogers & Thomas Wistar, secretaries & other Members of the [illegible]

The Minutes of the acting Committee for the last Quarter were read and approved

The time of Caleb atmore & Elias Boys having Expired in the acting Committee, Thomas Palmer & Thomas Afflect were chosen in their Room — —

Joseph Snowden having declined serving in the acting Committee to which office he was Chosen at the last Quarterly Meeting, Joseph Bond was elected in his roome

The Business on the Certificate of Membership being in some measure differently Conceived of by the society, agreed that the same be postponed till our next quarterly Meeting. —

William Rogers reported in behalf of the Committee

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On the present state of the prison, that agreeably to the society's Direction they have had 600 Copies printed & Published of a Pamphlet, entitled, "Extracts and Remarks on the subjects of Punishments & Reformation of Criminals" a number of which were then Laying on the Table for the use of the Members ~~of~~ and that each Member of the General assemble & supreme Executive Council with other Influential Characters ~~had been~~ had been duly presented with a Copy – He also reported that the General Assemble, had enected a Law respecting Prison & the Prisoners, which it was thought adviseable should be read & Considered whereupon it was agreed that the said Business be attended to, at a Meeting of the society to be held on Monday Evening the 19th Inst. and that in the mean time Thomas Harrison, Thomas Wistar & John Todd be a Committee to think of a report to the society suitable persons who may be recommended to the mayor, Aldenn. &c. to act as Inspectors to said Law.

The Election of a vice president in the room of Doctor G. Duffield Deceased, is postponed till the next stated Meeting

The Committee on the present state of the ~~Meeting~~ prison are Continued.

## Adjourned

---

At an adjourned Meeting of the society &c held on Monday Eveng. the 19th of april 1790.

Present: Doctr. William White President
T. Wistar & William Rogers Secretary &c.
Richard Wells, Vice president

The Minutes of the acting Committee for the last Quarter were read & approved. – Joseph Tatem & John McCrea having served their full time in said Committee Robert annan & James Moyes ~~were duly Elected in their room~~ ~~Committee the following~~

By a return from the Electing Committee, the following Persons appear to be unanimously Choven members of this Institution Viz

Samuel Davis Innkeeper
John Fisher, Hatter
William Lucas, Carpenter
Francis Dinsley
Isael Hallowell
Doctor Wm. Say
Peter le barbier Duplessis

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On Motion for discharging the Committee who were appointed Novem^r. 16^th. 1787 to devise a proper Emblem & Certificate of Membership for this Society – it was unanimously agreed to

The Committee on returning Suitable Persons to the mayor &c to act as Inspectors, reported that they had performed that Business, and twelve from their list, including 2 Alderman were accordingly appointed, viz. –

John Barclay
Wm. Bingham
Geo. Meade
John Keyhn

Caleb Lownes
Wm. Zane
John Baker
Elias Boys

Geo. Fox
Israel Kellwell
Rich^d Wells
John Perott

The Society proceeded to the Election of a vice presid^t. in the room of doctor Geo. Duffield, Deceas'd; when on Counting the Ballottots it appeared that Doctor Nicholas Collin was duly Elected. –

Adjourned.

---

At a stated Meeting of the society &c. held on Monday Evening the 11^th. of october. 1790 – Present

Doctor N. Collin vice President William Rogers & P. Wistar secretaries & 7 other Members –

A Sufficient Number not attending for the Transaction of Business, agreed to adjourn till Monday Eveng. next, the 18^th. Inst^t. at ½ past 6 Clock –

---

At an adjourned Meeting &c. held on Monday Evening the 18^th. of October 1790

Present Doctor William, Presid^t.

William Rogers, Secretary & other members of the Institution –

The Minutes of the acting Committee were read & approved.

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Ebenezer Large Joseph Bond having served the time of their appointment in the acting Committee, Andrew Geyer & Joseph Toad were Elected in their Rooms

On Motion, That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Representation, designed to second any proper Petition presented to the Legislature by the Keeper of the Debtors apartment, for making him a salery officer It was determined in the affermative - agreed that Joseph Bond, John McCrea, Thomas Morris, Dr. Megaw & Dr. Griffitts be the said Committee, Also that it be referred to their Consideration the propriety of having the prison Keeper's Power restricted in calling for assistance from the prisoner's themselves, against the refactory Likewise that the seperation of the Sexes in the Daytime as well as at Night be submitted to them to report upon.

Joseph Bond proposes at the next Quarterly Meeting to move for a repeal of that Part of the Constitution which makes 4 Members of the acting Committee a Quorum & instead of that Number to substitute Two —

Doctor Solomon Rush presented to the society thro' the hands of the society a Pamphlet entitled "Thoughts on the Construction & Polity of Prisons &c. By John Jeb- Mr. D. - agreed that the Secretary Return the Thanks of the Society to Doctor Rush for the said Present.

---

At a Special Meeting of the society &c held at the German School House on Tuesday Evening 21st Decemr. 1790.

Present, Doctr. White President

Doctr. Colen. V. President & a Number of other Members.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to prepare a Representation to the General assembly, be found

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any proper Petition to be presented by the Keeper of the debtors a Partment in this City. Now made report of their Proceedings.—

The Keepers Intended Petition was read, as was also the Draught of the Representation, which was debated by the Paragraphs & agreed.—

Doctor White, Megaw, Rogers & Bendwith Thom. Wistar & Jn Morris are appointed a Committee to have the representation fairey Copied, to sign it and have it presented to the 2 Houses of Assembly.—

The Representation is as follows.—

To the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania
The Representation of the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the Miseries of public Prisons Respectfully Sheweth.— That in persuing the Objects for which they associated, they have found much hardship & inconveniance arise from the of exacting fees from persons for debt: poor persons having been frequently subjected to a Confinement of Many Months because unable to pay their fees.—

That the Keeper of the Debtors apartment in this City has declared that if all the fees, to which he is intitled, were punctually Paid, the would be insufficient for his support, & for defraying the Necessary expence of the prison but that, in many instances, he has remitted fees to his own Loss, & in other Debtors have availd themselves of a Law of 3d. of George 3d

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By which the Keeper is included in the list of Creditors and shares their fate, these facts are stated in a petition which the Keeper of the Debtors apartment intends to present you. — That the Society conceive it would be more agreeable to the Humanity, as well as Consistant with the honor of the People, that the fees should be abolished, & that the keeper of Every prison should have such a fixed salary, as may be a reasonable Compensation for his Services, this Salary to be paid by the People of Every County respectively Since it is full as essential to their Credit & Security that the Administration of their prisons should be well Conducted as that the should at first be Erected. —

That by annexing a Competent salary to the office of Keeper, he is freed from the temptation of vending Spirituous liquors to the prisoners a practice, which has been frequently Connived at, perhaps from a Consciousness that some addition to his narrow pittance was necessary But which has often produced Greatest riots & disorder in prisons, that if this practice were totally suppressed, & distilled Spirits particularly excepted from the articles allowed to be Introduced to the prisoners they think that good order & Decorum would be Materially promoted in prisons, & the Miseries of the prisoners themselves Considerable alleviated,

That If the evils attending fees should not appear sufficient to authorise their abolition, it might be proper to invest some set of Men with the power of remitting them in Cases, which they think require such indulgence and to order the fees Collected

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To be paid to the County Treasurer in part Payment of the keepers salary.

The Society further respectfully represent, that experience has convinced them of the Propriety of investing the keeper with the power of punnishing with solitary Confinement any refractory prisoner & of making any disposition in the arrangement of the Prisoners, which he may think necessary Provided always that he give Notice of every such exercise of authority, within 24 hours after it, to persons appointed by Law to Inspect his department.

They therefore represent the expediency of Investing certain persons with the Power of Inspecting the Department & Orders apartment - who shall among others things, determine what discription of Persons may have access to the prisoners.

These Ideas the society have thought it their Indispensible duty to lay before you, well Convinced of your readiness to remedy every defect & abuse, which may be presented to your Notice - To your wisdom they submit this Important Business, In the fullest confidence that you will adopt such measures, as Justice, Humanity, & sound policy dictate and will rescue the prisons of Pennsylvania from the just reproach that they tend to Confirm depravity of promoting the Interests of honesty & virtue.

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At a stated Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons, 1st Month 10th 1791.

Present Nicholas Colin, Vice president,

William Rogers, & Thomas Wistar, Secretaries, & several other Members,

The Minutes of the last Meeting & of the acting Committee were read,

The time of Thomas Afflec & Thomas Palmer being expired, In the acting Committee Thomas Harrison & Benjamin Say, were appointed to supply their places.—

The Committee appointed to present the Representation of the society to the two Houses of Legislature reported that the had Dilivered one to a Member of the senate and that the other will be presented to the Houses of Representatives to morrow.—

Upon Motion agreed that a Committee be appointed to explain the 7th article of the Constitution & report to the next meeting. Samuel Meg ars, Joseph Bend & John McCrea were appointed for that Purpose.—

The Electing Committee reported, that the following Persons being Allotted for, were duly elected Members of the Society. viz. Doctor Solo. Rush. Rich. Wist Pattison Hartshorn. Robt. Walu

On Motion Thomas Harrison. & Thomas Wistar were appointed to Collect the arrears.— due upon the ground rents presented the Society, by John Dickinson Esquire Ebenezer Large, Benjamin Shaw, & John Mo

Appointed to settle the accounts of the Treasurer, and to Superintend the Collection of arearages due to the society to the end of the year 1790.—

Agreeably to the 1st article of the Constitution, the society proceed to elect by Ballot their officers for the present year when it appeared that the following Members were duely Elected Viz.—

William white President — Nicholas Collin, Richard wells } vice Presid.

Joseph Bond, Thomas Wistar } Secretaries

Benjamin Rush, Caspar Wistar — Samuel P. Griffitts, Benjamin Say } Physicians

William Lippencott, Bartholomew Wistar, John Reigh, John Keeley, Isaac Parrish, Jacob Shoemaker — Philip Benezet, Caleb Attmore, James Whiteall, John McCrea, Joseph Tatem, Benjamin Shaw } Electing Committee

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At a stated Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons, held in the German School house in Cherry Ally on Monday, the 11th of april 1791.—

Present

Dr. Nicholas Collin, Vice president, Joseph Bond, Secretary, & Other Members of the society.—

The Minutes of the last Meeting & of the acting, Were read.—

Ordered, that the words "As it appears that he is a man of humanity," expunged from the last Minute but one of the acting Committee.—

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The time of Robert Annan & James Moyes, of the acting Committee, having expired, Elisha Gordon & Doctor Collin were appointed in their room.

Joseph Bend, of the Committee appointed to present the representation of this Society to the Legislature reported, that he had presented a Copy to both Houses.

The Committee appointed to explain the 7th article of the Constitution, reported, that in Consequence of a law likely to be Passed by the legislature, at their present Session, placing Debtors' apartment under the Care of Inspectors they did not think it necessary to explain an article, which relates wholly to the Acting Committee, as it may perhaps be thought proper to discharge that Committee.

It appearing that the Information, on which the Committee, had framed their report, was Wrong, they were desired to attend again to the Business of their Appointment.

Resolved that Caleb Lownes, George Meade, & Doctor Collin be a Committee for Enquiring into the situation of the Debtors appartment, & that they use their endeavours to effect a seperation of the sexes, and to correct any abuses In the regulation of its Internal police, also to promote the objects of the late representation of this society to the legislature.

The Committee appointed to Collect the arrears Due on the ground rents presented the society by John Aitchinson having not yet been able to effect that Business, was Continued.

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The Committee appointed to settle the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to superintend the Collection of arrearages, reported that they had found a ballance in the hands of the Treasurer of Ten pounds, three shillings, & nine pence, but that they had not been able to do any thing respecting the arrearages,

The Committee were continued on this Business and directed to procure the signatures of those persons, who have been Chosen members of this Society, & have not yet signed the Constitution. — John M'Crea resigning his Place in the Committee, George Meade was appointed in his stead.

## Adjourned.

At a stated Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons, held in the German school House in Cherry Alley the 7th Month 11th 1791. Present William White President Nicholas Biddle V. P. Thomas Mistar Secretary and several other Members.

On Motion of the vice president the rules of the Society were Read.

The Minutes of the last Meeting & of the acting Committee were read.

The times of andrew Gewer & Joseph Budd of the acting Committee being expired, James Jobson was appointed in the room of andrew Gewer Joseph Budd Consenting to continue 3 months longer was appointed for that time.

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On Motion Resolved that the Committee appointed to explain the 7th article of the Constitution of this society be discharged.—

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to enquire into the situation of the Debtors apartment &c. Reported that the Legislature having Closed their session so early nothing effectual could be done. they are Continued and earnestly requested to use their endeavours to Carry into effect the objects of their appointment.—

The Committee appointed to Collect the arrearages Due on the donations of John Dickinson, not having Compleated that Business are Continued & Directed to have the Deed recorded.—

The Committee appointed to procure subscriptions & Collect arrearages are Continued.—

Adjourned

At a stated Meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons held at the German school House in Cherry ally 10th Month 10th 1791.—

Present Nicholas Collin vicepresident, Thomas Wistar Secretary & several other Members.—

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the society, and of the acting Committee (for the last quarter) were read

The time of Thomas Harrison & Benjamin Gay in the acting Committee being Expired, Thomas Rogers & William Lucas are appointed to serve on that Committee in their room.

& Thomas Harrison Consenting thereto is appointed for one in the room of Joseph Bates

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The Committee appointed to enquire into the situation of the Debtors appartment &c. reported that the legislature at their last sitting had passed an act, which altho, it did not extend so far, as to meet the Wishes of the society entirely yet afforded Considerable relief in the premises, the Committee are therefore discharged —

The Committee appointed to Collect the arrearages due on John Dickinson's donation, reported that they have had the deed recorded, but owing to the Indisposition of one of the Committee they had Not Collected the arrearages. they are therefore Continued. — — —

The Committee appointed to procure subscriptions & Collect arrearages not attending no report was made

Adjourned

At a stated Meeting of the society for aleviating the miseries of public prisons January 9th 1792 Present Doctor White President & several other members. —

Thomas Wistar the Secretry being absent William Rodger Was requested to officiate in his Room. — —

The Minutes of the last quarter were read. —

The Minutes of the Acting Committee were read. —

The time of Dr. Collin & Elisha Gordon in the acting Committee having Expired. George Krebs was appointed in the room of Dr. Collin & Elisha Gordon Consenting at the request of the Society to serve three Months longer. — —

The Committee on John Dickinson's Donation not being prepared to report are Continued,

The Committee on procuring signatures & Collecting arrearages are Continued with the addition of William Lippincott —

The Committee originally appointed are Ebenezer Large, Benjamin Shaw, & George Meade. the same Committee are desires to ascertain a Report at the Next meeting the Ballance belong=ing to the Society in the Treasurers hands. —

Agreeable to the first article of the Constitution the society proceeded to Elect by Ballot their officers for the Insuing year, when it appeared that following meßers were Duely Elected Viz. —

Doctr. William White President.

Doctr. Nicholas Collin } vice Presidents
Doctr. Samuel Mitchaw }

Thomas Wistar } Secretaries
Joseph Pillmore }

Benjamin Wistar Morris. Treasurer

Benjamin Rush
Casper Wistar
Samuel P. Griffitts } Physicians
Samuel Say

William Lippencott
John Keighn
Isaac Parrish
Jacob Shoemaker
Caleb Attmore
James Whitcall
John McCrea
Joseph Tatem
Benjn. Shaw
James Rogers
Jacob Geyer
Thomas Robinson
} Electing Committee

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At a stated Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons held at the German School house 4 Mo: 10. 1790

Present William White President

Nicholas Colin vice President

Thomas Wistar Secretary

& several other Members of the Institution —

The Minutes of the last Meeting and of the acting Committee for the last quarter were read

The Committee appointed to collect the arrearages Due on the donation of John Dickinson not being prepared to report are Continued, as are also the Committee appointed to procure signatures &c.

The time for which Thomas Harrison & James Jobson were appointed to serve in the acting Committee being Expired Christopher Marshall & John Starr are appointed to supply their places, Thomas Harrison at the request of the Meeting Concents to serve in the room of Elisha Gordon —

Upon Consideration of the Improved state of the prison is now reported owing to several humane acts recently passed by the Legislature of this state, and to the attention of the Inspectors in Causing said acts to be Executed, Resolved that Wm. White Caleb Cowpes, and Thomas Wistar be a Committee to take into Consideration the present state of the Society & report to the Next Meeting such alterations in the Constitution thereof, as the Improved state of the prisons & Penal laws may in their Judgement render necessary and proper

adjourned

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At a stated Meeting of the Society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons held at the German School House 7th Month 9th 1792

Present { William White. President
Samuel Megaw. Vice President and several other Members

The minutes of the last meeting were read those of the acting Committee not being produced to this meeting & only two of the Members attending who having no Report to make, that Committee are requested to attend the next meeting of the Society and give an account of their proceeding During the quarter last past agreeable to our Constitution

The Committee on the arrearages due on John Dickinson's Donation are Continued.

The Committee appointed to procure signatures &c. Informed the meeting that they had made further progress in this Business but not being fully prepared to report are also Continued.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to take into Consideration the present State of the society & report such alterations in the Constitution thereof as the Improved State of the prisons & penal laws may in their Judgement render Necessary and proper produced the following report which was adopted. Viz

That from the information the Committee have received they are induced to believe that the attention paid by the Society to the Business for which they Originally associated & from the success which had attended their labours, many of the evils which Existed in the prisons upon their first becoming the objects of the care of the Society, are nearly or altogether removed, The attention also, which appears to be paid by the board of Inspectors, (Instituted by the legislature of this state at the Solicitation of the society) in the oversight of the prisons render in the opinion of the Committee the frequent meetings and interference of the Society less necessary than heretofore —

Therefore Resolved that Infuture the following shall serve as the Constitution of this society —

1st first The Officers of the society shall consist of a President two vice Presidents two secretarys, a Treasurer, an Electing Committee of twelve and an Acting Committee all of whom except the Committee last mentioned shall be Chosen annually by ballot on the second second day, Called Monday in the month Called January.

2nd second. The President, and in his absence, one of the vice Presidents shall preside in all Meetings, and subscribe all the public acts of the society. The President or in his absence, either of the vice

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President shall moreover have the power of calling a Special Meeting of the society Wherever he shall Judge proper — A Special Meeting shall likewise be called at any time when six members of the Society shall concur in requesting

3 third. The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society, & shall correspond with such persons and Societies as may be Judged Necessary to promote the Views and objects of the Institution —

4th fourth. The Treasurer shall keep all the Monies & securities Belonging to the Society, and shall pay all orders Drawn by the Acting Committee which orders shall be his vouchers for his Expenditures. He shall before he enters upon his office give Bond of Not less than Two hundred pounds to the president or either of the vice Presidents for the faithfull discharge of duties of it —

5th fifth. The Electing Committee shall have the sole power of admitting new Members. Two thirds of them shall Shall be a quorum for this purpose; and the Concurrence of of a Majority of them, by ballot, When met shall be Necessary for the admission of a member. No Member shall be admitted who has Not been proposed at a general Meeting of the society: Nor shall an Election for a member take place in less than one Month after the time of his being proposed —

6th Sixth. The acting Committee shall Consist of the President

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Two vice presidents for the Time being and ten other members, they (or sum of their Number specially appointed for that purpose) shall visit the public prisons or such other places of Confinement or punnishment as are ordained by law, at least once every month or oftner if occation require, The shall enquire into the Circumstances of the prisoners Confined The shall report such abuse as they shall discover to the officers who are authorised to redress them, and shall Examine the Influence of Confinement or punnishment upon the morals of the persons who are the subjects of them. They shall have a right to draw upon the Treasurer for such sums of Money as shall be Necessary to Carry on the Business of their appointment. They shall keep regular Minutes of their proceedings which shall be read to the society at every annual meeting five shall be a quorum, after their first election five of their Number shall be relieved from their Duty at each annual Meeting and five other members appointed to succeed them, provided that they or none of them Should be reappointed

7th Seventh. Every Member, upon his admission, shall subscribe the Constitution of the Society and Contribute seven-

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ennsylvania
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Shillings and six pence annually towards defraying its Contingent expences. If he Neglect to pay the same for more than two years, he shall upon due notice being Given him of the delinquency Cease to be a Member —

7th. Eight. The society shall meet on the second second Day Called Monday in the Month Called January annually at such place as shall be agreed to by a Majority of the Members thereof —

At a stated meeting of the society for alleviating the Miseries of public prisons held at the German school house 1st Month 14th 1793 —

The President and vice Presidents being absent & a sufficiant Number of the Members attending William Rogers was ~~absent~~ chosen Chair Man. —

The minutes of the last Meeting was read —

The Book containing the proceedings of the acting Committee not being produced or any report made by them they are requested to Deliver the Booke to Charles Marshall, Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Shaw, John McCrea, Ebenezer Large, Richard Wistar, Christopher Marshall jun. William Lippencott, Joseph Budd & James Jobson, who agreeable to the Constitution of the society are now appointed to Serve on the acting Committee for the present year.

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The Committee appointed to settle the Accounts of the Treasurer made the following report viz.—

We the Committee appointed to settle the accounts have Examined the same find a ballance in his hands of Ninety-four Pounds Thirteen shillings & six pence

10th. Month 5th. 1792

Signed Ebenr. Large
Benjamin Shaw
William Lippencott

The Committee appointed to Call on those persons who were Elected Members of this society and had signed the Constitution, to obtain their signatures, report That the following Named persons, are Dead, removed from this City or decline being Members viz.—

| | |
|---|---|
| Jos. Paschall declines | John Wharton declines |
| Ezekiel Marriam Dead | Daniel Tyson ditto |
| Henry Physick removed | John Bringhurst Dead |
| Dr. James Sprat Declines | Wm. T. Franklin in England |
| Samuel Davis (Hatter) Declines | Mark Willcox — removed |
| Dr. William Thornton removed | Josiah Coats. Declined |
| John Fisher ..... ditto | Jedediah Snowden. ditto |
| Dr. Sollomon Rush .. ditto | Revd. Joseph Clarkson removed |
| Revd. Jno. Meder declines | John Anthoney - ditto |
| Jacob Bacon .. ditto | Nathn. Falconer - declines |
| Thomas Shields .. ditto | Joseph Few — Dead |
| Johnathan Dawes ditto | Robert Hopkins Gent. ditto |

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Joseph G. T. Bona ... removed  Daniel Travis Dead
Joseph M'Goffin  declines  Israel Hallowell ditto
Michael Bonner. Ditto

The Committee further report That they have obtained the Signatures of sundry persons to the Number of twenty Eight.- and that there are but very few others on the list whom the Committee have not been able to find

January 12th 1793  Signed { William Lippencot, Ebenezer Large, Benjamin Shaw }

The Committee appointed to Collect the arrearages due upon John Dickinson's donation Not being prepared to report are Continued

On Motion agreed that the Treasurer be directed to Employ some persons to Collect the Subscriptions of the Members for the Present year and all such arrearages as may remain unpaid of former Years, that he also be requested to Produce a state of his account to the Next Meeting

On Motion Resolved that William Rogers, Caleb Lowns & Thomas Wistar be a Committee to publish the Constitution of the society as lately altered in such manner as they shall think most beneficial

Caleb Lowns & John M'Crea being appointed judges of the Election which agreeably to the Constitution was now held made the following return

Philadelphia the 14th of January 1793

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We the Subscribers, being appointed Judges of the
Election held this day, for Officers &c of the philadelphia
Society for alleviating the Miseries of Public prisons —
and having Received and Counted the Ballots of the
Members of the said society, do hereby Declare the foll=
=owing Officers &c. Duly Elected for the Present Year — viz

President

William White

Vice presidents

Nicholas Collin ... Samuel Megaw

Treasurer

Benjamin W. Morris

Secretaries

Caleb Lownes John McCrea

Electing Committee

Thomas Harrison
Isaac Parrish
James Whiteall
Benjamin Shaw

Andw. Geyer
John Reigner
William Lippencott
Jacob Shoemaker

Caleb Attmore
John McCrea
Joseph Tatem
Thomas Rogers

Signed John McCrea, Caleb Lownes } Judges

At a Meeting of the Prior Acting Company August 23
The following Accounts were read, allowed & the Secretary directed to furnish draft on the Treasury for their Reimbursement -

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Viz Ben. Wynkoop | 9 | | |
| John Morrison | 10 | | |
| Francis Bailey | 15 | | |
| John Oldden | 2 | 1. | 3 |
| | £3 | 18 | 3 |

The case of Gabriel Mucket is a consideration not thought Worthy of the further attention of the Committee -
A letter being reported a addressed to Dr Duffield by Enoch Edwards Esq respecting Tobias Gordon, it appears highly improper any step should be adopted to obtain his Liberation.
Catharine Mulbey Ann Hoffam Henry Matholland Mr Kinsie Matthw Richard & Wm Listie appearing on enquiry to be persons of ill fame & bad character their cases are all dismissed -
John Kenedy case is referred to further consideration -
Report was made relative to Barney Hughes that on enquiry he was not the assailant in the Assault & Battery for which he stands comitted. The Committee propose Waiting on Justice Fleson to morrow morning and endeavour if practicable his enlargment -
From a report on the part of B Wynkoop it appears the Richard Roderick is likely in a short period to obtain the benefit of the Insolvent Act of course no additional care is requisite -
John Razor refusing to agree to the liberation of Daniel Major no mode short of obtaining the benifit of Insolvency will procure his discharge from confinement -
It appearing that to procure the Liberty of Alexander Drain application be made to Council The com. conclude personally to wait on them to morrow on the subject
Adjourned till this Evening 2 Week -

1787 Committee for October - November & December

| | |
|---|---|
| John Raighn | William Rogers |
| John Morrison | Benjn Thaw |
| Jeremiah Fisher | Francis Bailey |

Secretary John Oldden

who appear by their minutes to have attended to the supplying the necessities of the Prisoners -
1788 Committee for January, February & March
Francis Bailey Jeremiah Fisher Wm Lippencott } Secy
John Morrison Benjamin Thaw Thos Humphrey } Oldden
March 4th 1788 Jeremiah Fisher being unable it is agreed to solicite the services of Kearny Wharton (who now attended) in

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his room untill a regular appointment is made by the General Society.

The Committee for this Quarter appear to have close attended to relieving the wants of the Prisoners And to have been instrumental in liberating thirty five persons.

and under date of april 11th is the following Minutes

On Motion Resolved That this Committee proceed in a body to the Prison to morrow afternoon & make enquiry relative to some abuses that have obviously originated in a too free open & unrestrained Intercourse with the Sexes, and by such lively Reflections as occur, endeavour to obtain a Co operation with the Jail keper for their immediate Removal,

Committee for April, May & June Quarter. 1788

Benjamin Shaw  Thomas Humphreys } Sec.
Kearny Wharton  Thomas Wistar } John Oldden
William Lippincott  John Connelly

This Committee appear also to have exerted themselves to relieve the distresses of the prisoners and to have been instrumental in liberating of thirty persons.

and on the 8th of May 1788 came to the following Resolve

That the Prison be regularly visited twice a week on the third and sixth days of the week by two members of the Committee.

and on the 16 of May the following

The obvious irregularities in Prison - by indulging the most flagitious Characters, with a free range of the Jail - Some notorious offenders sentenced to a term of Servitude, and not placed among the Felons, or put into uniform agreeably to their Sentence - Dissipation and Licentiousness diffused among all ranks in Confinement, in consequence of an improper Intercourse between the Sexes - were matters under the serious Consideration of the Committee & agreed that they shall be resumed at next meeting ——

May 23. after some time spent in a consideration of the State of the Prisons as minuted at last meeting. It was directed that Thomas Wistar in Conjunction with the Secretary, prepare a plan ~~and irregularities~~ for correcting the abuses and irregularities that exist in Jail, and prevent the

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June 14. 1788. Some matters having occurred to render at present a further Consideration of the State of the Prison unnecessary the business is postponed —

July 11. On motion Resolved — That at the ensuing general Meeting of the Society, this Committee requests a number of respectable Characters be nominated to assist them in some important Cases of difficulty that have occurred.

Committee for July, August & September Quarter 1788 —

William Lippencott — Thomas Mifflin
Thomas Humphreys — Kearny Wharton
John Connelly — Caleb Lownes
} Secy J. Oldden

This Committee appear by the difficulties which occurred to have been prevented from exerting themselves in relieving the necessities of the prisoners —

The general Society at their meeting July 14. 1788 appointed

Dr. Wm. White — Dr. Benj.n Rush — Thomas Morris
Dr Geo: Duffield — Geo: Meade — Saml. Coates &
Rich. Wells — Dr. Nich. Collin — Thomas Harrison

a Committee to assist the acting Committee in some important cases, where difficulties have already arisen and are likely yet to occur in the discharge of their Trust.

1788
July 18. Acting Committee all the members present.

On motion, Resolved, That the whole Committee meet at their Secretaries, on the afternoon of the 22nd instant and from thence proceed in a body to visit the Jail, And that they assemble again on the same Evening in order to take into Consideration those matters of difficulty on which the advice and assistance of a Committee from the General Society has been desired —

July 22nd agreably to Resolution at last meeting the Committee again met, and resumed the Consideration of those matters on which a deputation from the General Society has been deputed to co-operate with this Board — after a considerable time spent thereon, it was Resolved that a joint meeting of the members of both Committees be held at the Carpenters Hall on the 24 instant at 3 o'clock

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at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, that John Connelly & Kearney Wharton prepare and distribute suitable notices ~~that Thomas Wistar~~ on the occasion and Thomas Wistar be directed to open and explain the Business of the meeting —

1788 July 25th Agreeably to Resolution of the 22nd instant the Committee had at the Carpenter's Hall on the 24th following, an Interview with the members deputed from our general Society, and there particularly stated their Conduct in those matters of difficulty which had occationed their appointment, and which being approved, It was unanimously agreed, that a written Representation of the proceedings of the acting Committee relative to the matters already ~~allude~~ alluded to, might be laid before them, in Order for adopting such eventual measures as may be found necessary. Whereupon Resolved That Thomas Wistar, John Connelly & Caleb Lowrey, and the Secretary be nominated to prepare the same and produce it at our next meeting accordingly

August 1st Thomas Wistar on behalf of the Committee applied to draft a State of the proceedings of the Committee as directed at last meeting, now produced one which being once read, was ordered to be again read by paragraphs, and after the first paragraph was read and agreed to, adjourned untill tomorrow Evening 8 o'clock.

2nd The Consideration of "The State of the Proceedings" being again resumed, after considerable deliberation it was again postponed untill 8 o'clock in the Evening of the 4th instant

4th The serious consideration of "the State of the Proceedings" being resumed after some amendments was agreed to, and adopted, and directed to be fairly transcribed, and produced at our next meeting

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1788 August 6th

Agreeably to the directors of the Committee at last meeting, the "State of our proceedings" fairly transcribed, was produced and is as follows

~~It was as follows~~

It having been represented to the acting committee appointed by the "Society for alleviating the Miseries of public Prisons," That upon the trial of William Bowdwine & Charles Prior, at the Court of Oyer & Terminer, the Chief Justice had expressed publickly an opinion, that the Committee had in those as well as in other cases, improperly & illegably interfered. This being very far from the intention of the Society, who on the contrary, wish to render every assistance in their power, to do the offices of Government, in the faithfull execution of the Laws of their Country, while they pursue the object of their institution, which are — To "alleviate the Miseries of Prisons, by procuring in them that reform, in their Policy, so obviously necessary, before a reformation, can rationly be expected, in the morals or conduct of any Criminal confined in them — As well as by pecuniary donations, to assist those of their fellow creatures who for trifling debts are confined to linger away a considerable portion of their time, which might be otherwise employed to the advantage of Society and the happyness of themselves & families

The Comittee who have been cautious not to diviate from the principals, & conscious that they never intentionably have, think it a duty they owe the general society, (whom they represent) as also to their own Characters, to give a candid state of their proceedings, in the cases particularly alluded to, in order that any prejudice, conceived against them, from a partial knowledge of their proceedings may be removed

About three Months ago, the Committee were informed by their Secretary, that Charles Prior & Thos Wigley, then Prisoners in the Goal of the City, had offered to make to them some discoveries of an interesting & alarming nature, to the public; after deliberating upon this subject, it was determined that in their capacity as a Committee they could not attend to this information, but that as Citizens of this Commonwealth it was their indispensible

duty to attend thereto, & communicate all the information they should receive upon such subjects, to the Officers of Government, whose business it was to take cognizance thereof— In consequence of this conclusion some of the Committee, had in their individual capacity, several interviews with them, at one of which, they were informed that Wigley was in possession of most knowledge upon the subject, as he had been personally concerned in several instances, and also, that they had written to Wm Pollard Esq.r offering to make certain discoveries & confessions to him, to which promise they were recommended strictly to adhere, & to make a full disclosure, of all such matters as they were acquainted with, or concerned in, to such Magistrate. At this time the said Charles Pryor & Thomas Wigley were confined in the front of the Prison, for in the course of their information they had accused two persons of the names of Brown & Simpson of being concerned in a robberry, committed upon the Store of Kaighn & Atmore (Brown was in consequence thereof apprehended) and they have both been since convicted of the said robbery, Simpson, who was in confinement then, was immediately charged therewith: the business became public througout the Goal, & Wigley was removed to the East Wing, & there confined, among others sentenced to hard labour; where he said it would be impossible for him to proceed in the business as he had intended viz By drawing up his information in writing, for he was apprehensive, that should the persons he was confined with suspect him, of such an intention, his life would not be safe among them,

a few days after this, the Committee received information that Wigley was by order of William Pollard Esq: removed to the Work House, where he had drawn up & signed a narrative or State of Facts, (See papers annexed marked with his Name) a copy of which was shewn to the Committee, & the Contents thereof appeared to them of so serious a nature that it was proposed to lay them before the Chief Justice, but they were informed that he was then on the Circuit It was therefore thought most advisable, that the information should rest in the hands of William Pollard Esq.r

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who was in possession of the original, as also of several other depositions, to confirm it made by Charles Pryor, Elizabeth Emory, Henry Dickey & Dickey, (See papers annexed marked with their Names) At a subsequent meeting of the Committee William Pollard Esq informed them, that he had lain the different depositions, information &c, before the Supreme Executive Council, who in consequence thereof had requested the Sheriff to remove from the Prison John Reynolds, Keeper, & that the Sheriff had declined granting their request, he likewise informed the Committee that means were using to have Wigley removed from the Work House to the Prison, & they joining him in opinion that it would be improper to put him in the hands of any Person, or Persons he had impeached, before an investigation had taken place, directed some of their members to wait upon Council, & request he might not be removed, which was accordingly done and their request granted —

Some time after this William Pollard Esq requested the Committee to join him in presenting to Councill, the petitions of Wigley, Emory & Pryor the latter of whom had not been brought to Tryall After mature deliberation, a majority of the Committee determined, that in them it would be highly improper to be concerned in such an application ——

They have since been informed by Justice Pollard that he had presented the above petitions to Council with that of one M'Laughlin (who had given such information, as to occasion the recovery of a considerable quantity of property, some time since stolen) in consequence of which Wigley, Emory & M'Laughlin had been pardoned, upon condition, that they should be confined untill they had given sufficient security for their good Behaviour ——

This they conceive a candid & true state of their proceedings, & flatter themselves that neither

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the Chief Justice, nor any other Person, can for a moment believe, that any of them were either improper or illegal, or that they were actuated, by any other Considerations than those of Humanity, especially if they consider, the Sacrafice of Time & Feelings, they must necessarily have made, in visiting the Goale twice a week, and in closely attending, to the many distressing & affecting Cases, which have unavoidably occurred, when in the course of the last 12 Months they have been instrumental in releasing Persons from that Sink of Wretchedness & depravity —

Signed by order of the Committee by
William Lippincott Chairman

Resolved that the Committee appointed by the Society to assist the acting Committee, be requested to meet them on the afternoon of the 8th instant at 3 o'clock at the Carpenters Hall, & that John Connelly & Kearney Wh be requested to see the members of the said Committee & request their punctual attendance, and that when met, the foregoing representation be laid before them

The members of the acting Committee who visited the Goal on the 1st instant Report,

That whilst in the Execution of their duty at the Goal one of the Criminals had by the help of his blanketts got over the wall into the Debtors yard, but upon the interference of the Goaler, and some Conversation between them, he was ordered by the former into the East Wing which was accordingly done, but immediately upon the door being locked, he turned with the fury of a mad man, with threats & language of the most abusive ~~kind~~ nature, against the Committee the Goaler observed, that we might be convinced, that it would be imprudent in Justice Pollard to enter that Goal, seeing that those men were determined to injure him — Upon this Conversation the Prisoners in the West Wing crowded to the windows, & declared that they had frequently heard the wheelbarrow men say, that if they caught Squire Pollard there they would cut his hair off and

disfigure him so that he should not be known,
We then proceeded to the debtors apartment, where the
same spirit prevailed tho, not so violent as in the East
wing, This abuse the Debtors informed us was not
from them, but from one of the Criminals that
was amongst them, upon the appearance of the Goaler
the abuse ceased, most of the women appeared to be
drunk, fighting, & in general Confusion; some of the
most quarrelsome, the Goaler removed into another
room, In his absence the debtors informed us
of their wretched situation, owing as they said, to
the thieves being constantly among them, & robbing
them of their provision & Cloths, so that they were
obliged to keep their hatts on continually, to prevent
their being taken from them, they requested that
some measures might be taken to effect a separation
We recommended to them to lay their situation
before the Goaler in writing signed with their respective
names, to this they objected, saying that if their
names were known, to the Criminals their lives
would be in danger, & added that he was not ig=
=norant of it, Observing some of the Criminals then
amongst them, one of the name of Philips, was charged
with being the cause of all the disturbance & aforesaid
abuse, he immediately retorted with threats & abuse
of so alarming a nature, that the debtors assured us,
that unless there was a separation before we left the
Goal, their persons would be in danger, We informed
the Goaler of all the debtors had said to us, & of our fears
unless a separation took place, Nevertheless we did not
mean to dictate, for the Committee had not taken
any part; that would weaken his authority in the
execution of his duty — Whereupon the Goaler
immediately ordered two men into the East Wing
one of whom was the before mentioned Philips &
informed us, at the same time, that those men, had
lately been convicted, and that for want of

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of Cloathing he had not sent them out with the rest of the convicts and concluded with saying, that it was out of his power to keep them apart, as they could in five minutes get over the walls by means of their blanketts

The above report, being taken into serious Consideration & the Contents thereof being of such a nature as with other circumstances, to convince us, that some alteration in our proceedings is necessary — It is agreed to lay the report before the Committee appointed by the Society on the 8th instant and request their advice.

1788 August 15. Agreably to a conclusion on the Evening of the 6th inst & in Consequence of advice at a meeting with the assisting Committee from our general Society it is agreed that that further visiting of the Goal be at present Suspended

At a joint meeting of this Committee & the Assisting one it was resolved, That William White & George Duffield of the assisting Committee & William Lippincott, John Connelly & Kearney Wharton of the acting one, waited on the Chief Justice and explain the Principles and motives of the Prison Society, and inform him of the conduct of the Committee in the different Cases alluded to in the representation

Nick. Collin & Geo. Medley

September 5 The Members of this Committee, who were appointed to wait on Chief Justice, Report

That on the 28 Ultimo, in Company with Doct. White & Mr. Duffields, they went to his house, when the business was opened by the former, who presented him with the constitution of the Society, & informed him of the nature & design of the institution

The executive part of which, he said, devolved on the acting Committee, who were much hurt to find, that he had in open Court, censured their conduct, for having interfered in several cases, both illegal, & improper — That the Committee ever carefull to avoid, any steps, which might give just offence to the officers of Government, did not recollect one instance in which they had done it, Should it however be the case, as they were altogether unacquainted therewith he begged the Chief Justice, to particularise the Circumstances

that they might in future be avoided — To this he reply'd
That the Court through him, had expressed their disap-
probation of several matters committed by two or three
persons, who they understood belonged to the Committee,
that consistent with their duty, they could not do
otherwise, than take notice of them, And that it was
not him alone, but the Whole Court who were of that
opinion — The Committee in the course of their Business
handed to him, the "State of the Proceedings" of the Acting
Committee made to the Sitting One, observing that
altho' it was not intended for his perusal, yet they had
no objection, but indeed wished him to see it — after
his reading the Report, a friendly conversation took
place, very satisfactory to the Committee, who were
much pleased to find, that he entertained a very high
opinion of the Society & express'd many wishes, for its
prosperity & Continuance — He observed that the doors
of the Goal would be open to us, & observed that pre-
vious to the establishment of the Prison Society — he
visited the Goal & Work House frequently, but since
which he had not found any occasion for his service
He mentioned several times, that it was not the Society
that was alluded to in Court, and Concluded by telling
the Committee, — That the Acting Committee, as such
had not interfered either illegally or improperly ——

It was moved & Seconded to consider the propriety of again
visiting the Goal — After much time spent in the consideration
thereof it was postponed untill the next meeting which is
to be on the Evening of the 8th instant

1788 September 8. The visiting the Goal again postponed

a letter of Resignation from the Secretary John Oldden
being again read, the same was accepted, & Resolved that
the Secretary pro tem, be requested to inform him thereof, &
return him thanks for his services in the execution of his
office —

Kearney Wharton was Elected Secretary

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1788
September 12th. It was agreed to visit the Goal in a body, on Tuesday next ten o'Clock, and that the Company of William White and Richard Wells or any two members of the assisting Committee be requested on the occasion

19th. The Committee, in the course of their visit to the Goal last Tuesday observed, three men without Shirts & on enquiry were informed, that they were taken from them for Garnish when they were first put into Goal, Resolved that John Connelly & Thomas Wistar, wait on & confer with the Committee appointed by the General Society to consult with the "Committee of the house of Assembly" respecting the iniquitous practice of exacting garnish from newly confined prisoners, & to use their endeavours to prevent it in future —

And that on Monday next at 10 o'Clock, the Committee visit the Goal in a body

October 7th. The Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the General Society on the subject of Garnish Report That on an interview with one of the members, it was concluded that at this time it would be improper to proceed in the business —

10 Mo: 24. Committee for the Present Quarter

| | |
|---|---|
| Caleb Lownes | Charles Marshall |
| John Connelly | Isaac Parrish |
| James Cooper | Thomas Wistar |

28.. Thomas Wistar is appointed Secretary this Quarter,

31st The Committee thinking, that an interview with the present Sheriff would at this time prove usefull, James Cooper is desired to call on him, & request a Conference should he consent thereto, fix some time, & give information thereof to the Secretary, who is directed to notify the members —

11 Mo: 10th In Consequence of the resolution entered into on the 31st of last month the Committee had an interview with the Sheriff informed him of the principles of the Society, & also of the Regulations which they conceive necessary to the good government

of the goal, in which he acquiesing expressd a disposition to render his assistance to the Committee in advancing the Objects of their Institution

The Consideration of visiting the Goal being resumed and it appearing that the same causes which formerly operated with the Committee to suspend their visits there still subsist, it is agreed to defer visiting there for the present

Thomas Mifflin the President of the Supreme Executive Councill having informed two of the members of this Committee that he was disposed to render every assistance in his power to the Society, & also, that he should be glad to be furnished with what information the Committee were possess'd of that related to the Objects of their institution Whereupon Resolved that this Committee wait upon the President present him with a Copy of the Constitution, inform him of the usual mode of proceeding of this Committee, & of all other such matters & things as shall to them appear necessary.

John Connelly is directed to wait upon the President and request him to name a Place & Time for the Committee to wait upon him.

1788
11 Mo 21.

The Committee appointed in Consequence of the Resolution of last meeting, waited upon the President, & found with him Samuel Miles & Jebulon Potts two members of Councill, who present them with the following Resolve of that Body Viz.

In Council, Philadelphia November 20th 1788

On Motion Resolved

That Colonel Miles Colonel Willing & W. Potts be a Committee to enquire, and Report in what manner the business of the Goal of the City & County of Philadelphia is conducted, That they endeavour to obtain information, relative to the Cloathing, diet, lodging and treatment of the Prisoners, to ascertain as possible the quantity of Spirituous liquor annually, and

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used by them, & to discover the means by which they are supplyd with it

Extract from the minutes & signed
James Trimble for
Charles Biddle Secy

Which appearing to the Committee to Comprehend matter of much consequence to the Institution, as also to open a door for considerable investigation & improvement in the conducting the business of the Goal, the Committee requested, that some time might be allowed them, which being readily granted, the Committee now resumed the Consideration of the above Resolve, and for the reasons already mentioned agree (with the Concurrence of the President of the Society) that a Special meeting be called and lay the same before them,

Isaac Parrish & Thomas Wistar are directed to wait upon the President should he agree to call the meeting, appoint the Time, and inform the Secretary of the Society thereof in order that the members may be notified accordingly

1788
11 Mo 28

The Committee appointed to wait upon the President of the General Society attended to that Service, agreeable whereto a Special meeting of the Society was called & the Communication of the Committee of the Supreme Executive Council, with the Resolve of that Body was laid before them whereupon the Society came to the following Resolution viz

That a Committee be appointed to meet and confer with the said Committee of Council. The following members were accordingly appointed—
Doc^r Duffield, William Rogers, John Kaighn, Benj Shaw, Benjamin Wynkoop, Doc^r Griffits, Richard Wells, William Lippincott & Thomas Harrison
In addition to the present acting Committee,